

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03

SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-03 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00

LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /157 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7311

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 5838

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: LARDINOIS PRESS CONFERENCE-AUGUST 1

1. EC COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE LARDINOIS HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 1, TO PUBLICLY EXPRESS THE COMMISSION'S CONCERN OVER THE RECENT NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT MEASURES TAKEN BY FRANCE AND BELGIUM.

2. LARDINOIS SAID THERE ARE CONFLICTING VIEWS OVER THE NATURE OF THE FRENCH MEASURES. THE FRENCH, HE SAID, VIEW THE MEASURES AS BEING OF UNCLASSIFIED

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A SOCIAL CHARACTER AND THEREFORE NOT CONTRARY TO THE ROME TREATY. THE

COMMISSION, HOWEVER, CONSIDERS THAT CERTAIN OF THE MEASURES ARE CLOSELY RELATED TO DIRECT PRODUCTION AIDS AND ARE THEREFORE INCOMPATIBLE WITH ARTICLE 92 OF THE TREATY.

3. THE COMMISSION HAS POSED TO FRENCH OFFICIALS A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ON THE FRENCH MEASURES, AND EXPECTS A REPLY BY THE END OF AUGUST. AFTER RECEIVING THIS REPLY, THE COMMISSION WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO REFER THE MATTER TO THE COUNCIL OR TO THE COURT OF JUSTICE.

4. REGARDING THE BELGIAN MEASURES, LARDINOIS SAID THEY CAUSE THE COMMISSION LESS CONCERN THAN THE FRENCH MEASURES, ALTHOUGH SOME OF THEM ARE APPARENTLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE TREATY, I.E., PREMIUMS FOR SLAUGHTERING SOWS, AND AIDS TO FARMERS IN BACKWARD REGIONS. THE COMMISSION HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH BELGIAN OFFICIAL ON THE MEASURES TAKEN, AND THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE.

5. LARDINOIS DOES NOT FAVOR A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS BEFORE SEPTEMBER 23, BECAUSE AN EARLIER MEETING COULD NOT BE PRECEDED BY SUFFICIENT PREPARATION. HE MAY, HOWEVER, CALL FOR AN INFORMAL MEETING IN EARLY OR MID-SEPTEMBER OF STATE SECRETARIES AND OTHER HIGH AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS FROM THE MEMBER STATES TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT PROBLEMS IN EC AGRICULTURE.

6. LARDINOIS SAID MID-YEAR CAP SUPPORT PRICE ADJUSTMENTS ARE NOT UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMISSION. SUCH PRICE ADJUSTMENTS ALONE, HE SAID, COULD NOT HELP RESOLVE THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR.

7. LARDINOIS DID NOT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT INCREASED EC LEVIES ON POULTRY, AND JOURNALISTS DID NOT ASK QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.
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